

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment makes minor changes to the specification and a minor amendment to claim 1. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and prompt notification thereof is solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4310 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4310 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

This amendment amend the specification as shown below:

The paragraph on page 4, beginning with line 16, is amended as follows:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a system with management controllers that are adapted to perform a mode negotiation protocol according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 1 shows a system 100 that may be any type of electronic system such as a general purpose computer system, special purpose computer system, etc. System 100 contains four modules 110, 120, 130, and 140 which may be, for example, circuit boards that are inserted into slots of a system chassis. Of course, in other embodiments the system may contain more or less modules. Each of modules 110, 120, 130, and 140 may be a power supply, fan tray, CPU Board, or any other type of component. The controllers in system 100 may each ~~by~~ be coupled through an input/output port to a system management bus 150, which may be any type of bus that carries management information. Example of system management bus 150 are an Inter-IC bus (I²C) that conforms to the I²C Bus Specification developed by Philips Semiconductor Corporation, a System Management Bus (SMBus) which conforms to the SMBus Specification (Ver. 2.0, Aug. 2000) of the SBS Implementers Forum, or an Intelligent Platform Management Bus (IPMB) which conforms to the Intelligent Platform Management Bus Communications Protocol Specification (Intel Corp. et al., v1.0, November 15, 1999). The system management bus may be configured in any type of topology such as a single bus, star, dual bus, or a hybrid topology. If a dual bus topology is used, the system management controller may have a second input/output port to send a duplicate copy of system management messages to the other system management controllers. A system management controller may communicate with other system components using various types of message formats such as that defined in the Intelligent Platform Management Interface Specification (Intel Corp. et al., v1.5, rev. 1, Feb. 21, 2001) (herein IPMI).

The paragraph on page 7, beginning with line 10, is amended as follows:

Management controllers, such as those ~~show~~ shown in system 200, may be capable of operating in one, some, or all of BMC mode, standby-BMC mode, or SMC mode. For example, BMC 215 may also be capable of operating as a standby-BMC or an SMC, standby-BMC 225 may also be capable or operating as a BMC or an SMC, and SMC 235 may only be capable or operating as an SMC. In other embodiments, for example, SMC 235 may be capable of operating as BMC, and/or BMC 215 may not be capable or operating as an SMC.

The paragraph on page 12, beginning with line 3, is amended as follows:

Thus, according to an embodiment of the invention, a response that is sent back to the sender of the controller mode request may be based at least in part on the current state of the receiver. The response may be based at least in part on the controller mode capabilities of the receiver and may be based at least in part on a user-configured mode preference. The method shown in FIG. 3 and in FIG. 4 may be performed as part of a controller initiation process. Although the ~~steps~~ operations of the method shown in FIG. 3 and in FIG. 4 are discussed in the order shown, in other embodiments some of the ~~steps~~ operations may be ~~performed~~ performed in different orders. For example, a system management controller may send a controller mode request, and respond to one or more requests that it received, at substantially the same time.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) —~~An~~ A system comprising a first system management controller to negotiate with other system management controllers to determine the first system management controller's initial operational mode.